

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## Draft Finding of No Significant Impact

**Option Agreement Between Glenn-Colusa  
Irrigation District, Bureau of Reclamation,  
and the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water  
Authority for 2008 Operations**

**FONSI No. NC-08-01**

Recommended: \_\_\_\_\_  
Buford R. Holt, Ph.D. Date  
Environmental Specialist  
Northern California Area Office

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Person Date  
Area Manager  
Northern California Area Office



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Mid-Pacific Region

## **BACKGROUND**

The proposed action is the Bureau of Reclamation's approval, without further National Environmental Policy Act review, of a 1-year program of transfers of up to 85,000 acre-feet of water from the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) to the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA). The transfers will be in accordance with Reclamation's current water transfer guidelines, applicable biological opinions, and court orders.

GCID will forbear diversion of up to 85,000 acre-feet of Sacramento River water that GCID otherwise is entitled to under the terms of its Sacramento River Settlement Contract No. 14-06-200-855A (Settlement Contract) with Reclamation and which GCID would have diverted during 2008 for use on lands within its Settlement Contract service area. The forbearance shall be undertaken in a manner that allows Reclamation to deliver the forborne water supply as Central Valley Project (Project) water to SLDMWA. The term of the Option Agreement Between Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, Bureau of Reclamation, and the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority for 2008 Operations (Agreement) will be from the date of execution of the Agreement through and including February 28, 2009, or if the option under the Agreement is terminated by April 21, 2008, then this Agreement shall expire immediately thereafter.

The SLDMWA will use the additional water for irrigation of crops within SLDMWA's contractors' existing service areas.

## **FINDINGS**

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Northern California Area Office, Mid-Pacific Region, Bureau of Reclamation, has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required for the transfer of water from GCID to the Transferors during the 2008 water.

This Finding of No Significant Impact is based on the following:

1. The transfer will not result in permanent land use changes.
2. The transfer will not result in any new construction of diversion and distribution facilities or any changes in existing operations.
3. The transfer will not cause any significant change in the flow in the Sacramento River or the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as the flows in the affected portions of the Sacramento River will only increase 2 to 3 percent or less.

4. Adverse effects on either listed or unlisted fish or wildlife and their critical habitat, cultural resources, unique geologic features, and Indian Trust Assets are not expected due to the lack of substantial changes in hydrology or water quality of the affected areas.
5. The transfer is consistent with Federal policies on Environmental Justice because all income levels will benefit equally.